

# PROPERTY PLANNING COMMON ELEMENTS

## COMPONENTS OF MASTER PLANS

### RECREATION ACTIVITIES AND THEIR MANAGEMENT

#### Fishing

##### *Desired Experiences and Site Selection Considerations*

Fishing is part of the Wisconsin's heritage and, like hunting, provides opportunities for building or continuing family traditions. This activity involves various forms of catching fish using bait, lures, spears, nets, and other means. Fishing is often a solitary or small group activity (typically no more than a couple of people).

Fishing requires little infrastructure, other than access and boat launches on larger waterbodies. Water quality and aquatic habitat are key components that affect the quality of fishing experiences. Fortunately, there is a very wide range of fishing opportunities in Wisconsin. From small, cold spring creeks to the Great Lakes, state residents seek out a diversity of angling experiences.

##### *Notable Differences in Participation or Opportunities Across the State*

Fishing is popular throughout the state, but the opportunities available differ from one area to another. Some areas of the state harbor numerous small streams, while others offer numerous lakes, and still others host large rivers. For example, the Driftless Area offers premier trout fishing in the numerous cold and cool water streams, but virtually no lake fishing. The Northwoods region of Oneida and Vilas counties has thousands of clear lakes that provide exceptional fishing for bluegill, walleye, bass, muskie, and more. The Great Lakes and Green Bay provide their own unique experiences.

##### *Notable Times of the Year of High or Low Participation*

There are fishing opportunities year-round, but most angling occurs from the opening of the general season (first Saturday in May) through fall. Ice fishing is popular in many areas in winter.

#### **Participation**

##### Participation Rate and Frequency

Based on a 2016 survey of Wisconsin residents conducted for the development of the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), it is estimated that 55% of adult Wisconsin residents participate in fishing.

In terms of frequency, people fishing in lakes from boats, canoes, or kayaks did so

Days/year	% of Anglers			
	Lake Fishing from Shore or Pier	Lake Fishing from Boat/Canoe/Kayak	Stream/River Fishing from Shore/Wading	River Fishing from Boat/Canoe/Kayak
1 to 2	37	29	40	40
3 to 9	38	36	34	34
10 to 29	16	21	17	16
30 or more	10	14	9	10
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%



more frequently than participants in other forms of fishing (it ranked #14 in frequency out of 64 activities evaluated).

### Estimated Trends

According to Wisconsin DNR license number data, fishing license numbers have increased in Wisconsin over the past 15 years, with a 9% increase from 2002 to 2014. While there is an increase in license sales this does not reflect the participation rate or percent. Nationally, fishing participation rates are expected to decline by about 9 percent by the year 2060 (Cordell 2012). The American Sport Fishing Association suggests that anglers in the Millennial generation may be less committed to fishing than previous generations (American Sport Fishing Association 2016).

### Demographics

For purposes of presenting demographic information of anglers, all forms of fishing from the SCORP survey results are combined. As can be seen from the in the table, participants in fishing in Wisconsin are well represented across age groups, with more participation by rural men.

Demographic Category	Demographic Group	% Participation Rate Within Demographic Category	% Composition of Demographic Category (sums to 100%)
Age	18-29	60	25
	30-39	57	21
	40-49	59	17
	50-59	49	18
	60-69	37	13
	70 and older	27	6
	<b>Total</b>	--	<b>100</b>
Gender	Female	40	41
	Male	60	59
	<b>Total</b>	--	<b>100</b>
Residence	Rural	57	56
	Urban	42	44
	<b>Total</b>	--	<b>100</b>

### ***References***

- American Sport Fishing Association. 2016. *Will Millennials Sustain Sportfishing?* Report five of six in a series. Produced by Southwick Associates, February 2016. [http://asafishing.org/uploads/Technical\\_Report\\_Five\\_-\\_Millennial\\_Anglers\\_and\\_Cross-over\\_License\\_Buying.pdf](http://asafishing.org/uploads/Technical_Report_Five_-_Millennial_Anglers_and_Cross-over_License_Buying.pdf)
- Cordell, K.H. 2012. *Outdoor Recreation Trends and Futures: A Technical Document Supporting the Forest Service 2010 RPA Assessment*. USDA Forest Service General Technical Report SRS-150, Southern Research Station, Asheville, NC.

